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Book Review

Canine and Feline Anesthesia and Co-existing Disease L. B. C. Snyder, R. A. Johnson. Wiley Blackwell, Chichester, UK, 2014, 352 pp; £59.84 (paper), ISBN: 9781118288207

Q4 The preface of this book states that its aim is to provide a single-source reference text addressing the specific problems of anaesthetizing dogs and cats who are not otherwise healthy, similar to the medical text *Stoelting's Anesthesia and Co-existing Disease*. This is an admirable and ambitious task.

On multiple occasions while reading it I found myself wondering who this book is targeted at. Some of the early text could be skipped by any reader who is a competent veterinarian able to anaesthetize normal healthy dogs and cats. At the same time, the scope of the text occasionally reaches levels of complexity that might push a bright anaesthesia resident. The variation among authors means that some chapters appear to be pitched at a very different level to others, making the book as a whole an uneven read; however, the majority of chapters are good, in that they have appropriate content. The chapters I found the most readable contained less text, more tables and cross-referenced other chapters within the book that dealt with the same topic.

Most of the authors are diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia and the vast majority are practising in North America. This bias is evident from start to finish and certain chapters are written from what seems to be an exclusively US-centric perspective. As such there are some pertinent omissions with regard to techniques, licensed and commonly used drugs, and practices in the wider anaesthetic community – notably, the lack of information on or reference to alfaxalone and methadone, both of which are licensed, extensively researched and used in daily anaesthetic practice in countries outside the USA. Some anaesthetists are still able to access and legally use barbiturates for

general anaesthesia, but this class of anaesthetic is also virtually absent from the book.

The vast majority of the pathophysiology described in the book is appropriate, accurate and well referenced, although details of personal preferences and extrapolations from data in other species are included. Techniques are generally well described, many benefiting from multiple diagrams or photographs.

Considering how much of the text is given over to describing drug choices in particular disease states, I was surprised by the relative lack of referencing in the index. Many drugs are discussed repeatedly, yet if someone wanted to quickly reference something like 'propofol use in pancreatitis', this would prove difficult.

In summary I think this book provides more ready access to the specific information intended than do general anaesthesia texts, but it is less readable as a quick reference book than some others specifically aimed at practitioners. Viewed from outside the US, the lack of information on some widely used drugs may deter some readers, but I would recommend it as a good place to start studying the complexities of anaesthesia in the non-healthy patient.

Conflict of interest statement

Author declare no conflict of interest.

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